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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

FOREIGN NEWS

At the last meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland the following resolution was unanimously passed and sent to the prime minister and to the chairman of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases:

That the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, which called public attention to the national importance of the subject in 1909, begs respectfully to express to the prime minister its great gratification, at the appointment by the government, of a Royal Commission to enquire into the prevalence of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom.

The National Council of our British sisters, by placing a discussion of the social evil and venereal disease on the program of the International Council of 1909, and by the two notable papers of Miss Brodrick and Miss Burr, took precedence of any other organized group in Great Britain, outside of the abolition societies founded by Josephine Butler, we believe, in publicly calling attention to this great and crying evil. It was followed by the militant suffrage groups, which now openly urge the existence of prostitution and disease as the basic reason or need for political power for women, and by these women's groups the social, medical and political aspects of the black plague were thoroughly unfolded to the public intelligence before the medical profession of Great Britain took public action on the subject. And yet not only are women still denied political rights, but nurses are still also denied legal protection and status, while the most odious scandals are daily brought upon them by the use of the nurse's uniform in disreputable places. If patience is a virtue it is an outworn one.

Australia is working for registration state by state as we have done. New South Wales has a bill in parliament. Australian nurses, let us not forget, can vote.

Dr. Helen Criswell, chairman of the California Nurses' Committee of Arrangements for 1915, has been abroad and has conferred with

foreign nurses about the Congress details. The last week of May or the first of June would best meet their views as to time; inside the Fair grounds as to place, and many other details were talked over, among others, a nursing exhibit.

Kai Tiaki says:

Miss Ethel Halley (daughter of the late Rev. J. J. Halley, of Melbourne) has been awarded by the Chinese government a gold medal for "Bravery under Fire, and Good Work done to Soldiers," a distinction given to only one other woman in China. Miss Halley is matron of the Railway Hospital, Chinkaing, on the Yangtse River, about 80 miles from Shanghai.

Another interesting item in this magazine shows a district nurse for Maori women making her rounds on horseback. We also find in it this item:

In redemption of the promise made by the New Zealand delegates at the Cologne Congress of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Holgate, the only delegate at present in New Zealand, proposes to raise a shilling fund towards the endowment of a Chair of Nursing in memory of Florence Nightingale at the London University.